1.15 Kg. LPG was equated to 1 litre of Kerosene oil;

(b) whether considering the life span of one LPG bottle at 5 years, the present security deposit of Rs. 900/- refilling charges of Rs. 981/- per tonne including transportation of gas and filled cylinder, dealer's margin of Rs. 15/- and profit margin of oil companies at 12% the selling cost per cylinder comes to Rs. 124/- whereas companies charge @ Rs. 180/- per cylinder to avail subsidy of Rs. 365/- crores per year from the Pool account; and

(c) if not, the break-up of the cost of each of the above items, specifying the cost per cylinder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The existing system of pricing of petroleum products is based on the recommendations of Oil Prices Committee (1976) as amended by the Oil Cost Review Committee (OCRC) 1984.

(b) and (c) The cost of production of LPG would vary from refinery to refinery depending on the level of crude thruput, pattern of production, delivered cost of crude oil, the cost of processing/refining and return on capital employed. The estimated cost of production in the country of LPG (Packed Domestic), inclusive of additonal impact of imported LPG but exclusive of cost of martketing activities, on an industry basis considering weighted average cost of crude and margins thereon for the year 1996-97 works to about Rs. 9110/MT.

**Decline in Production of Oil and Natural Gas**

587. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of oil and natural gas in the country is showing a declining trend;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken to improve production in the country, to cut down the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The production of both crude oil and natural gas has increased during 1993-94 to 1995-96. However, there has been shortfall in crude oil production during 1996-97 due to the following reasons:—

Reduction in anticipated production from the major fields of BRBC especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected resevior behaviour, not in conformity with earlier predicitons.

Oil fields entering the natural declining phase.

Lower production from joint venture projects.

Constraints in operating conditions on account of law and order problems and insurgency in NE region.

Stopage of work in Nagaland.

Frequent power shutdown in Western & Eastern Region affected artificial lift operations.

(c) Various steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of hydro carbon are—

Implementation of EOR Schemes and extendign some of EOR's Schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.

Implementation of specialised technologies such as ERD, side track, horizental and drain hole drilling.

Obtaining services of international experts wherever considered necessary.

3-D seismic survey of the oil fields.

Rectificatory measures such as aggressive workovers, use of specialised technologies like long/short drift side track, drain hole have been planned for revival of sick wells which still have potential.

Increasing indigenous production of crude oil and natural gas by developing new schemes and additional development of existing fields.

Encouraging the participation of private/JV in the oil sector.

Enhancing exploration of hydrocarbons and increasing reserves through seismic surveys, deep water exploration, and exploration in frontier areas.

**मध्य प्रदेश में रसोई गैस सिलिन्डरों की कालाबाजारी**

588. **श्री शिव चरण सिंह:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि मध्य प्रदेश के विदिशा-गंज बासौदा और सिरोज कस्बों में रसोई गैस के सिलिन्डरों की कालाबाजारी की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो रसोई गैस सिलिन्डरों की काला बाजारी रोकने तथा इसका नियमित वितरण कराने हेतु क्या एहतिहाती उपाय किए जा रहे है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि गंज बासौदा नगर में गैस सिलिन्डरों का वितरण पुलिस स्टेशन के माध्यम से किया जा रहा है;

(घ) इस गैस एजेन्सी के विरुद्ध कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है;

(ङ) क्या गंज बासौदा में रसोई गैस की मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए वहां नयी गैस एजेन्सी खोले जाने की संभावना है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो कब तक?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी०आर० बालू): (क) सरकारी तेल कम्पनियों को मध्य प्रदेश के विदिशा, गंज बासौदा तथा सिरोंज कस्बों में रसोई गैस के सिलिन्डरों की काला बाजारी के संबंध में कोई शिकायत नहीं मिली है। तथापि, सिलिण्डर आपूर्ति में अनियमितता के संबंध में मैसर्स बासौदा गैस एजेंसी, गंज बासौदा के खिलाफ एक शिकायत मिली थी।

(ख) संशोधित विपणन अनुशासन दिशा-निर्देशों के तहत डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाती है, जिसमें सिलिण्डर की अनाधिकृत आपूर्ति करने पर 2000/- रुपए का जुर्माना लगाना तथा घर पर सिलिण्डर की आपूर्ति न करने पर एक चेतावनी पत्र देना शामिल है।

(ग) जी, हां। गंज बासौदा में, एस डी एम, गंज बसौदा की हिदायतों के अनुसार पुलिस स्टेशन से सिलिण्डर वितरण का कार्य किया जाता था, जिसे कलैक्टर, विदिशा की हिदायत पर फरवरी, 1997 से समाप्त कर दिया गया है।

(घ) जैसा ऊपर (ख) में कहा गया है।

(ङ) और (च) जी, हां। प्रतीक्षा सूची और गंज बासौदा की मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए, गंज बासौदा में एक अतिरिक्त डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप खोलने की योजना बनाई जा रही है।

**Clearance to Pending Petroleum Projects**

589. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of projects in the Petroleum Sector are pending clearance for various reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith reasons for pendency, project-wise;

(c) the details of the projects cleared during the current year, project-wise with their present status in terms of initiation of actual work/flow of investment; and

(d) the details of action proposed to clear the pending proposals/projects within a stipulated time?-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A list of projects, which are at various stages of examination and appraisal, is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below)

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statement-II (*see* below).

(d) There is a laid down time schedule for appraisal and approval of projects.